

[REDACTED]

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I strongly oppose the current redistricting efforts pursued outside of the normal ten-year Census cycle. This process appears designed to preserve partisan control rather than fairly represent the people of Texas. Redistricting should serve democracy - not undermine it.

It is especially troubling that Governor Abbott has invoked the tragedy of recent floods - events that have deeply affected families and communities across the state - to justify this political maneuver. Texans in crisis deserve real help, not to be used as cover for a partisan power grab. This is not leadership; it's exploitation.

Additionally, the Governor's references to Attorney General Opinion No. KP-0382 as justification for declaring legislative seats vacant due to breaking quorum are legally unfounded. KP-0382 is a non-binding legal opinion and does not have the force of law. The Texas Constitution clearly states that only the Legislature itself can discipline its members, and only the voters can remove elected officials. The Governor has no constitutional authority to unilaterally remove or replace duly elected lawmakers for exercising their rights.

Breaking quorum is not a forfeiture of office; it is a profound exercise of legislative power to fortify democracy. By denying quorum, elected officials are protecting the integrity of their representation and the rights of their constituents against unjust or partisan actions. Rather than abandoning their duties, they are courageously standing up to preserve the very office they were elected to serve, ensuring that democracy is not compromised for political gain.

Texans deserve fair maps, honest governance, and elected officials who can advocate for their communities without threats or manipulation. I urge this committee to reject these redistricting efforts and reaffirm its commitment to democratic principles.

Respectfully,  
Jessica Valdez  
Austin, TX

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